

NOS Special Projects Highlights: March 2007

Project of the Month

NOAA Restoration Day 2007

Special Projects' Alison Hammer, in partnership with the NOAA Restoration Center and NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, distributed a total of 22 underwater Bay grass grow tanks to NOAA offices in Silver Spring for the upcoming NOAA Restoration Day 2007. Special Projects started this effort in 2002 as an NOS initiative with three Bay grass grow tanks. This year, over 150 NOAA employees from all NOAA Line Offices will participate in the Maryland Restoration Day event on June 12 at the Jug Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

NOAA Restoration Day is an annual opportunity for NOAA employees to work in the field helping to restore coastal habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed through a variety of hands-on, restoration activities. There will be two events again this year – one in Maryland and one in Virginia. For more information or to register to participate, please contact Alison.Hammer@noaa.gov.



[HTTP://RESTORATIONDAY.NOAA.GOV/](http://RESTORATIONDAY.NOAA.GOV/)

NOS

West Coast Navigation Services Division Poster

Developed a poster for the West Coast Navigation Services Division that shows the major sea ports along the California coast and how the harbor communities relate to each other from a geographic perspective. These posters will be distributed to organizations such as the California Association of Port Authorities, Harbor Safety Community, and the California Maritime Association for use at major presentations associated with port issues. (Gini Kennedy)

Marine Debris Web Site Navigation Redesign

Redesigned the navigation scheme on the Marine Debris Web site (<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>) to allow for greater extensibility and a future reorganization of content. The new design was done to accommodate a new education and outreach section being developed by an outside contractor. The code for the navigation was transmitted with documentation to the contractor so that the additional section will work seamlessly with the new site. (Georgia Shao)

NOS All Hands Meeting Support

Supported the live video, audio, and slide presentation for the NOS All Hands event held March 13 in the NOAA Auditorium. Special Projects coordinated captioning, conference call, and live video feed so that employees outside the Silver Spring campus could participate. (Mike Shelby)

NOAA

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Federal Workgroup Meeting

Hosted, on March 22, a meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Federal Workgroup, whose role is to coordinate an integrated federal response to the regional priorities identified in the Gulf Alliance *Governors' Action Plan*. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting in Silver Spring, representing nine federal agencies and five other regional organizations. (Brent Ache and Chris David)

NOAA Regional Collaboration Executive Oversight Group (EOG) Briefing

Briefed the NOAA Regional Collaboration EOG on an Internal Communications Plan to increase agency-wide awareness relative to NOAA's regional collaboration efforts. Special Projects was charged with coordinating a cross-line office team to develop this plan and provide a series of associated recommendations, next steps, and key decision points for EOG consideration. (Kim Cohen)

Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Plan

Posted NOAA's Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 to 2011 in the NOAA's activities section of the CoRIS Web site (http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/coral_research_plan/). This posting was a special request from the Coral Program to make PDFs of the report Internet accessible. Staff worked with the Coral Program to post the report within a very short time frame in order to meet the deadline imposed by an impending press release which included the URL for the plan. (Georgia Shao)

Smithsonian/NOAA Ocean Portal Prototype

Working with a team from the Smithsonian Institution, released a "version 0.5" of the Ocean Portal prototype. The prototype was completed and presented to Smithsonian senior management and the Ocean Council, the governing body that oversees the Ocean Initiative. Special Projects staff contributed significantly to the development of the design and information architecture of the prototype site and the content for a coral reef interactive included on the prototype. Staff assisted NOAA line offices and the U.S. Navy with developing content. The content for the initial prototype launch is primarily NOAA content comprising six stories, one collection, and an initial content offering for teachers. The prototype, which is currently password protected, will be released to the public in late May. (Emily Crum)

NOAA 200th Anniversary Web Site

Added five new feature stories and six new stories on NOAA activities to the 200th Web site (<http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov>). A new "For Fun" section was added, featuring downloadable desktop wallpaper, a NOAA-focused Mark Trail cartoon, and a mosaic of the NOAA logo. Staff also continued development of a collection of rare books that uses "flipbook" technology. (Davida Remer)

Interagency Working Group-Ocean Coastal Mapping

Began serving as the NOAA Technical Lead on the Interagency Working Group-Ocean Coastal Mapping team. The team, which includes other federal mapping partners from NOAA, the U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Management Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has been tasked to develop a workshop which will bring in technical experts to define a process to develop an inventory of coastal and ocean mapping programs, their existing data and planned acquisitions, and a Web-based system to search and display records from the inventory. A Geospatial Portal will be used to house the inventory and existing and planned data acquisitions. (Robert Wilson)

Summary of Projects by Partner: FY07 (as of April 5)

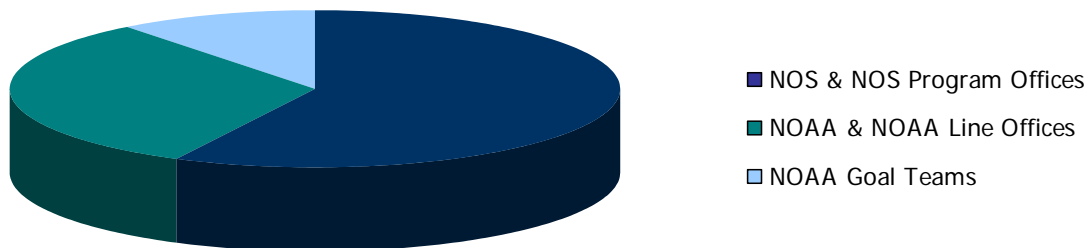


Chart represents cumulative numbers of active, proposed, and completed projects for fiscal year 2007.

	Active	Proposed	Completed	Estimated Level of Effort* (person years)
<i>TOTAL Projects</i>	90	8	27	41.0**

*The level of effort estimates will fluctuate as new projects are added and existing projects are completed.

**There is an additional level of effort that goes into SP-specific projects (e.g., administrative).

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